



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PRELIMINARY WORK BEGINS For the I-5 CARMENITA ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT**

**SANTA FE SPRINGS** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) began utility relocation work this week as part of the Santa Ana Freeway (Interstate 5) Carmenita Road Interchange Project. The work involves the removal and relocation of underground utility lines near Freeway Drive, Marquardt Avenue and Alondra Boulevard, beneath and along southbound and northbound Interstate 5.

Work zone set-up is underway along Freeway Drive, near Marquardt Avenue (off northbound I-5); and along Alondra Boulevard at Marquardt Avenue (off southbound I-5). During daytime hours, the public can expect construction crews and equipment working near these city streets. Most of the work will take place behind fencing and concrete barriers, or k-rail. Partial and temporary closures on Freeway Drive are planned during mid-February 2012. The utility relocation work will continue through early May 2012.

For the safety of motorists, pedestrians and work crews, motorists are reminded to reduce speeds, obey traffic signals, signs and flagging operations in this area.

Underground utility relocation is necessary to prepare for the \$380 million Carmenita Road Interchange Project that will replace and reconstruct the existing two-lane Carmenita overcrossing with a ten-lane structure, totaling five lanes in each direction. The project will also widen I-5 from Alondra Boulevard to Shoemaker Avenue by adding one High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV), or carpool lane, and one general purpose lane in each direction, as well as shoulder widening and construction of a concrete median barrier. The project includes a new design for on-ramp and off-ramp movements and will realign frontage roads including Firestone Boulevard, Freeway Drive, Carmenita Road, Arctic Circle, Molette Street and Excelsior Drive. The project will improve overall traffic circulation on the interchange, on-ramps and off-ramps, thereby increasing safety and reducing congestion. The improvements will better accommodate future projected traffic demands and added freeway capacity.

Caltrans transportation partners associated with this project include the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments.

For more information on the Carmenita Road Interchange Project and to sign up for construction notifications, visit the I-5 Corridor Improvement Projects website at [www.I-5info.com](http://www.I-5info.com) or call the I-5 Corridor Toll-Free Hotline at 855-454-6335.